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E10

ACTION WHA-00

RELEASED IN PART

B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00
	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-00
	NSAE-00	OIC-00	OMB-00	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00
	PMB-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SAS-00	/000W	

-----EAF636 112042Z /62

O 112018Z FEB 04

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4928

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCSO MIAMI FL PRIORITY

USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 000503

NSC FOR TSHANNON AND CBARTON

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

STATE PASS USAID FOR DCHA/OTI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/11/2014

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHUM, VE

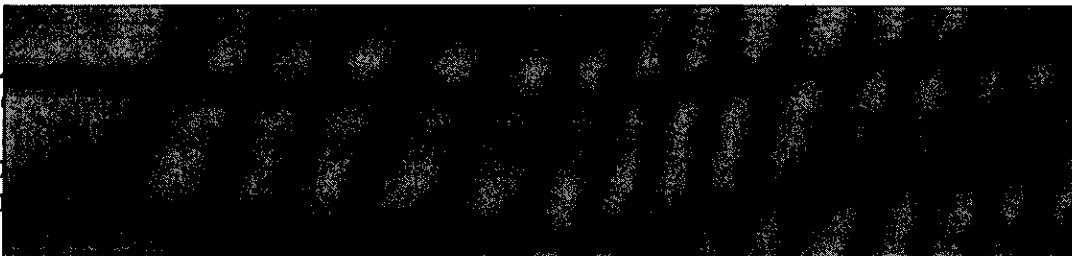
SUBJECT: VENEZUELA POLITICAL UPDATE: 2/11/2004

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR CHARLES S. SHAPIRO FOR REASONS

1.5(B) AND (D)

SUMMARY:

1. CNE:



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN E SINN
DATE/CASE ID: 24 JUN 2005 200404746

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: APPEALS REVIEW PANEL
APPEAL ACTION: ORIGINAL DECISION UPHELD
REASON(S): B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DATE/CASE ID: 11 OCT 2007 200404746
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-- (U) CNE ANNOUNCED IT WILL INVOKE A 5-DAY PERIOD DURING WHICH VOTERS COULD PERSONALLY VERIFY THEIR NAMES.

2. OPPOSITION:

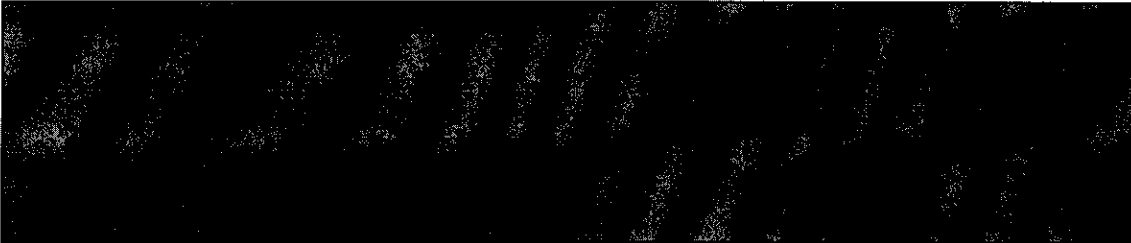
-- (U) THE OPPOSITION NGO SUMATE WILL PROVIDE DEMONSTRATORS WITH A COPY OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL SIGNATURE TO MARCH TO CNE HEADQUARTERS FEBRUARY 14.

-- (U) THE OPPOSITION DEMOCRATIC COORDINATING COMMITTEE (DCC) NOW PLANS TO HAVE A SMALLER MARCH TO THE CNE ON FEBRUARY 13, COMPOSED OF A SMALL CADRE OF OPPOSITION LEADERS, TO PUBLICLY DEMAND A RESPONSE ON THE REFERENDUM.

3. GOV:

-- (U) PRO-CHAVEZ ACTIVIST LINA RON AND A BAND OF BOLIVARIAN CIRCLE MEMBERS HAVE ESTABLISHED CAMPS ON THE GROUNDS OF THE CNE BUILDING, AND PLEDGE TO PROTECT" THE CNE FROM ANY OPPOSITION INVASION.

-- (U) THE GOV IS ALSO SPONSORING A YOUTH MARCH FR FEBRUARY 11 THROUGH 13, CREATING WHAT THE OPPOSITION SAYS IS COVER TO BUS IN HUNDREDS OF PRO-CHAEZ TOUGHS TO INTIMIDATE OR ATTACK OPPOSITION ARCHERS.



-- (U) POLITICAL ALLIES OF THE PRESIDENT HAVE GNE PUBLIC WITH ALLEGATIONS OF COUP-PLOTTING AND ARN OF OPPOSITION-INSTIGATED VIOLENCE.

-- (C) CHAVEZ AND HIS SUPPORTERS CONTINUE TO ALLEGE USG COLLUSION WITH HIS OPPONENTS.

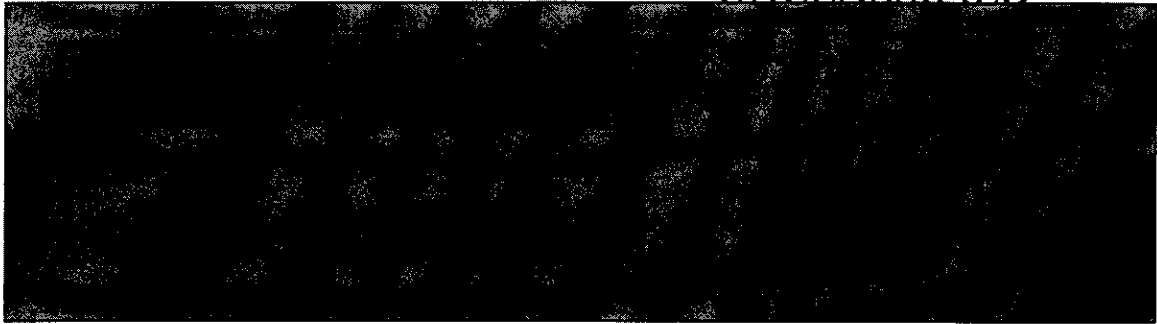
END SUMMARY.

CNE: NEW CONFUSION ON NUMBER OF QUESTIONABLE FORMS



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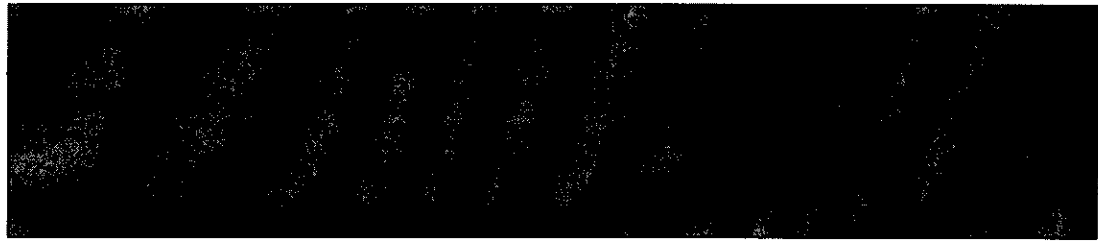
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5. (U) CNE PRESIDENT OSCAR BATTAGLINI ANNOUNCED LATER FEBRUARY 11 THAT THE SIGNATURE FORMS FILLED OUT IN THE SAME HANDWRITING (THE SO-CALLED "PLANILLAS PLANAS," EE REFTEL) WOULD NOT BE NULLIFIED. INSTEAD, BATAGLINI SUGGESTED THAT THE CNE WILL PUBLISH A LIST OF QUESTIONABLE SIGNATRES AND

CARACAS 00000503 001.2 OF 002

1. CNE:



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2. OPPOSITION:

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END SUMMARY.

CNE: NEW CONFUSION ON NUMBER OF QUESTIONABLE FORMS

5. (U) CNE PRESIDENT OSCAR BATTAGLINI ANNOUNCED LATER FEBRUARY 11 THAT THE SIGNATURE FORMS FILLED OUT IN THE SAME HANDWRITING (THE SO-CALLED "PLANILLAS PLANAS," SEE REFTTEL) WOULD NOT BE NULLIFIED. INSTEAD, BATTAGLINI SUGGESTED THAT THE CNE WILL PUBLISH A LIST OF QUESTIONABLE SIGNATURES AND

CARACAS 00000503 002 OF 002


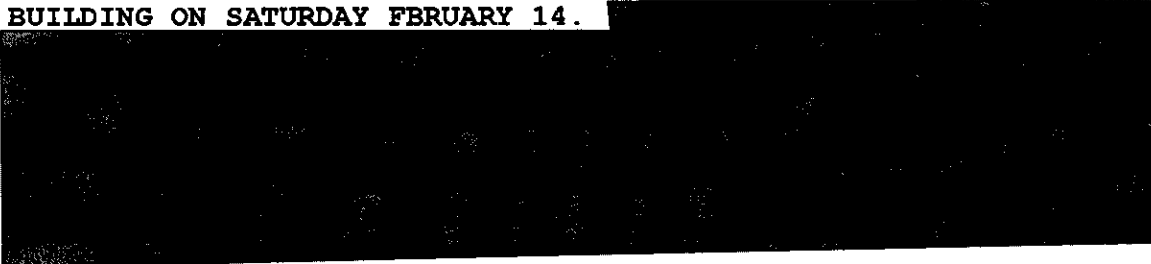
RSN TO A CNE OFFICE.

MARCHING ORDERS

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6. (C) THE OPPOSITION HAS ANNOUNCED SEVERAL PUBLIC EVENTS DESIGNED TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE CNE'S EXPECTED FAILURE TO CERTIFY SUFFICIENT SIGNATURES TO SCHEDULE A PRESIDENTIAL RECALL REFERENDUM BY THE POLITICALLY SYMBOLIC FEBRUARY 13 DEADLINE. ENRIQUE MENDOZA ANNOUNCED THAT THE OPPOSITION IS PLANNING A MARCH ON THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL (CNE) BUILDING ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14.



8. (C) THE GOV AND ITS SUPPORTERS ARE PLANNING TO COUNTER THE OPPOSITION ARCHES WITH DEMONSTRATIONS OF THEIR OWN.



JUAN
BARETO, A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY FROM THE CHAVISTA-ALIED BLOC FOR CHANGE (BLOQUE DE CAMBIO) PARTY ANNOUNCED ON FEBRUARY 10 HE HAD INFORMATION OF AN OPPOSITION PLOT TO INCITE VIOLENCE TO COVER THEIR PLANNED COUP D'ETAT. ISMAEL GARCIA, A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY FROM THE PRO-CHAVEZ PODEMOS PARTY, ALLEGED THE OPPOSITION MARCH WOULD PROCEED TO THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN MIRAFLORES, HOPING TO INITIATE A REPEAT OF THE EVENTS OF APRIL 2001.

9. (C) CHAVEZ AND HIS SUPPORTERS CONTINUE TO ALLEGE USG COLLUSION WITH HIS OPPONENTS. THE OFFICIAL GOV TELEVISION STATION RAN A STORY ON FEBRUARY 10, 2004 ALLEGING THAT MARIA CORINA MACHADO, A DIRECTOR OF OPPOSITION NGO SUMATE, HAS RECEIVED MONEY FROM THE USG. THIS FOLLOWS ON THE HEELS OF CHAVEZ'S FEBRUARY 9 TELEVISED REMARKS IN WHICH HE ACCUSED THE USG OF FUNDING OPPOSITION FORCES BENT ON HIS REMOVAL

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(SEPTTEL) .
SHAPIRO

NOTE: SVC FOR GRABLED TEXT SECTION 02 OF 02

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